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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,146	09/30/2003	Thomas D. Ray III	066575-0011	3833

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EXAMINER

HOGUE, GARY CHAPMAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3611

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/673,146	Applicant(s) RAY ET AL.	
	Examiner Gary C Hoge	Art Unit 3611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on December 15, 2004. These drawings are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 14-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charley in view of Martin.

See Fig. 2 and column 2, lines 25-67. Charley discloses a method comprising the steps of printing information on a label layer 14 having adhesive, thereby denoting a first layer; affixing a pressure sensitive carrier layer 24, having a clean-release adhesive 20 on a first surface and an adhesive 26 on a second surface, to a magnet layer 12 to thereby denote a second layer; and affixing the first layer to the second layer (Fig. 2) to denote a third layer, and cutting the third

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layer to a predetermined depth (see column 4, lines 1-13). The magnet layer is non-tacky when removed from the pressure sensitive carrier layer. However, the surface of the magnet layer is not exposed when removed from the pressure sensitive carrier layer because the pressure sensitive carrier layer is composed of separable film layers that adhere to the magnet and to the adhesive backing, respectively. Martin teaches that it was known in the art to use a clean-release adhesive 30 that is directly removable from the magnet. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the two film layers disclosed by Charley with a single clean-release adhesive layer, as taught by Charley, in order to simplify construction by reducing the number of discrete layers required to make the invention.

Regarding claims 15 and 29, the adhesive 26 is a permanent adhesive.

Regarding claim 16, the adhesive applied to the label layer 14 makes the label layer self-adhering.

Regarding claim 17, see column 1, line 67.

Regarding claim 18, every solid object is either flexible or rigid.

Regarding claims 19 and 20, the pressure sensitive carrier layer 24 is clear. See column 2, line 36.

Regarding claim 21, the pressure sensitive carrier layer has a releasable backing layer 28 affixed thereto.

Regarding claims 22 and 23, see column 4, lines 8-12.

Regarding claim 24, Charley discloses the invention substantially as claimed, including the step of die-cutting the finished labels. The cut must not extend all the way through the labels, because the labels are wound onto a roller 110 after die-cutting, which would be impossible if

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the cut completely separated the labels into discrete pieces. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to extend the cut all the way through the magnet, but stop short of cutting the backing layer, because the precise depth of the cut is an obvious matter of design choice.

Regarding claims 25 and 30, see column 5, lines 21-25.

Regarding claim 26, Charley discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Charley discloses attaching the magnet label to a cereal box. Martin teaches that it was known in the art to attach a magnet label to a postcard, in order to mail the magnet to the user. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach the magnet label disclosed by Charley to a postcard, as taught by Martin, in order to mail the magnet label to the user.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 14-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

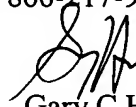
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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary C Hoge whose telephone number is (571) 272-6645. The examiner can normally be reached on 5-4-9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (703) 308-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gary C Hoge
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3611

gch